



**St John**

first to care

## 5.0 Heraldry

### 5.1 Definition

Heraldry is the study of the art and science of armorial bearings or coats of arms. Heraldic authority in St John is vested in the Grand Prior who takes the advice of the Order's Genealogist who is an Officer (Herald) of the College of Arms in London. You will find information about the Genealogist at Section 2.

To learn more about Heraldry go to the College of Arms Web-site at [www.college-of-arms.gov.uk](http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk) and the Web-site for the New Zealand Herald of Arms at <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/overview/herald-of-arms.html>

### 5.2 Arms of the Order

Order Statute 44 describes the Arms of the Order as:

*The Arms of the Order shall be: Gules a cross argent, in the first quarter a representation of the Sovereign's Crest and they shall be depicted and used in conformity with such provision as may from time to time be made by Regulations.*



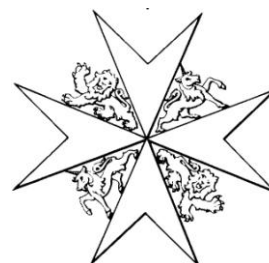
In layman's terms, the Arms are a white Greek cross on a red shield with a Royal Crest in the first Quarter. The use of the Royal Crest is the only distinction that identifies the Arms as those of the Venerable Order, and was added with the Sovereign Head's approval in 1926. Until then, the Order had used the shield with embellishments (the lion and unicorn - Royal Beasts) in the angles of the cross, in a disproportionate way. The lion and unicorn, are the Supporters of the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom.

### 5.3 Badge of the Order

Order Statute 45 describes the Badge as:

*The Badge of the Order shall be a white eight-pointed cross embellished in the four principal angles alternately with a lion passant guardant and a unicorn passant, and it shall be designed and used in conformity with such provision as may from time to time be made by Regulations.*

Queen Victoria's Charter of 1888, which incorporated the Order as an Order of the British Crown, restored the beasts, and Colonel E J King, Historian of the Order, described this in 1934 as the "...second great landmark in the history of the modern Order".



The Badge can be displayed on the black rondel as is the case in New Zealand.

With the approval of the Secretary General, St John New Zealand in 2001 revised the Badge by increasing the depth of the rondel (the black disc on which the Badge sits), and altering the detail of the beasts slightly. Examples of the Badge and how it is used in the St John logo "Lock-up" are shown in the St John Marketing and Communications Manual section 2.1.

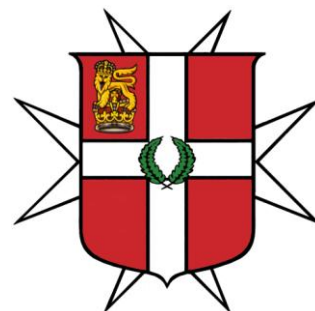


The beasts are gold when the Badge is displayed on flags, or the insignia and Mantle Badge of Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross and Knights and Dames of Justice, and on the insignia of Chaplains.

The technical definition and dimensions for the Badge are set out in Section 2 of Appendix 1 of the Order's Regulations.

## 5.4 The Arms of the Priory in New Zealand

The Arms of the Priory in New Zealand are the Arms of the Order differenced by the addition of green fern fronds at the centre of the Cross. The Arms are based on the design of the Standard of the Priory in New Zealand, submitted to the Grand Prior for approval in 1956. The original design sent to Grand Priory for approval incorporated the Southern Cross as well as the wreath of green fern fronds. Grand Priory advised that this design could not be adequately reproduced in detail so the green fern fronds alone were used. In the Priory in New Zealand, the Arms are usually used in association with the activities of the chivalrous Order.



The Arms may be displayed on the Badge of the Order (without the rondel) in which the beasts must not be shown through as illustrated above.

## 5.5 Displaying the Badge in Other Ways

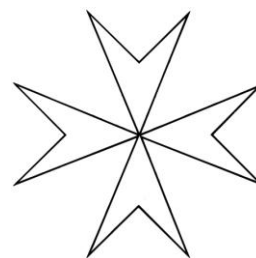
It is permissible for the Badge to be displayed in association with another design or device to identify or highlight the national identity and cultural diversity, or both, of a Priory. New Zealand successfully did this in 1985 with the circular Maori Kowhaiwhai Badge used for the Centennial of St John in New Zealand.



The Grand Prior authorises such distinction, taking the advice of the Order's Genealogist.

## 5.6 The White Cross of St John

Heraldically and correctly, the Cross (without the Beasts) is a Maltese Cross and as a white Maltese Cross it is commonly known in the Order (Statute 54) as the Amalfi Cross.



## 5.7 Legal Protection for Arms and Badge

The Priory in New Zealand owns registered trademarks on logos and emblems outlined in this document, holding such marks as intellectual property in trust for the Order. The Arms and the Badge of the Order are protected under New Zealand Law by the Flags, Emblems and Names Protection Act 1981, and all the Arms and Badges detailed in points 5.2 to 5.5 cannot be used or reproduced without the permission of the Chief Executive. They may not be altered.

Establishments are required to use their best endeavours to protect the Arms, the Badge and the Cross (Statute 54), although the Cross alone is not an official Badge of the Order as the Order does not have exclusive use of it.

The Arms, the Badge and the Cross may only be used in conjunction with activities that further the objects and purposes of the Order. Advice concerning this should be referred to the Regional Functional Coordinator for Order Matters.

## 5.8 No Alteration allowed to Arms and Badge

The Arms can only be modified in respect of use by Priories, and the Badge cannot be added to, or altered (Statute 53).